(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Developed Contraceptive Cream

82. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's scientists have developed a new contraceptive cream by making use of 'neem' tree;

(b) if so, whether this contraceptive cream has been tested on human beings;

(c) if so, whether this cream has been found useful as a contraceptive; and

(d) if so, the time by which this cream is likely to be made available to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) Scientists of the Defence Institute of Physiology and Applied Sciences, under the Ministry of Defence have developed a neem-based contraceptive. According to information given by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Applied Sciences, the contraceptive has not so far been tested on human beings, but it has been found useful as a pre-coital vaginal contraceptive in animal experiments. The availability of the contraceptive to the customers will depend upon the successful completion of trials on human beings.

[English]

Power Projects

83. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVEENCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has decided to finance some power projects in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ADB has sought the counter guarantee from the States/Union Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) ADB has identified loan and technical assistance for 1998-2000 for the following projects/schemes in the power sector:—

Lending		
1.	Gujarat Power Sector Restructuring (SDP)	$ 300 m.
2	PFC	$ 500 m.
3.	State Power Sector Restructuring II (SDP)	$ 300 m.
4.	Southern Region Power Station	$ 250 m.
5.	State Power Sector Restructuring III (SDP)	$ 300 m.
Technical Assistance		
1.	Southern Region Combined Cycle Power Station	$ 0.600 m.
2.	State Power Sector Restructuring II	$ 1.000 m.
3.	State Power Sector Restructuring III	$ 1.000 m.
4.	Support for PFC	$ 1.000 m.

The actual commitment would be subject to further negotiations with concerned states/executing agencies.

(c) and (d) Where Government of India is the borrower the question of guarantee/counter guarantee does not arise. In cases where the ADB assistance in routed directly to the Implementing Agency with the approval of the Government of India, the debt serving charges of the ADB are guaranteed by Government of India.

Mejia Thermal Power Project

84. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the time likely to be taken to synchronise the third unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project;

(b) the bottlenecks faced by the Government in executing the project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Third unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project of